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05/07/03

Attorney Docket No. 015776/0000 (B74376)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

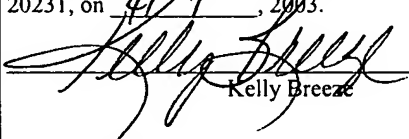
In the Application of:  
Rudolf Epple

Serial No.: 10/083,345

Filed: February 27, 2002

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) Group Art Unit: 2853  
)  
) Examiner: Not Assigned  
)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. Sec.1.8, I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 4/17, 2003.
 Kelly Breeze

Dear Sir:

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, attached please find a Form PTO-1449 listing information for consideration by the Office in connection with its examination of the above-captioned patent application. Copies of each document listed are enclosed herein.

Applicant submits that no representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of these materials in any way reflects their relative pertinence. The listing on the attached Form PTO-1449 is not intended to constitute an admission of any kind. Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that any of the items listed are properly citable against the above-identified application as prior art.

Applicant respectfully submits that his invention is patentable over the enclosed documents listed on Form PTO-1449.

The cited references were listed in a Search Report dated February 26, 2003 for  
European Patent Application 02001764.7.

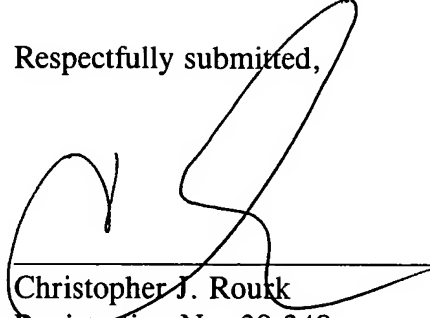
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Pursuant to §1.97(e)(1), each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement and, therefore, no fee is believed to be due.

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or to credit any fee overpayment relating to this matter to Deposit Account No. 01-0657.

Respectfully submitted,

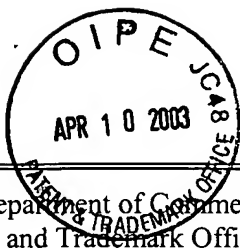
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U.S. Department of Commerce  
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Att. Docket No.: B74376 (015776/0000) S/N: 10/083,345

Applicant: Rudolf Epple

Filing Date: 02/27/02

Group: 2853

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Initial		Document Number							Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date if Appropriate
	AA	5	9	4	6	4	5	4	08/31/99	Shu et al.	395	109	07/02/97
	AB	5	7	4	8	8	5	8	05/05/98	Ohtsuka et al.	395	109	09/03/96

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Initial		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation	
							Yes	No
	AC	EP 0 417 806 A3	03/20/91	Europe			Abst	
	AD	EP 0 417 806 A2	03/20/91	Europe			x	
	AE	EP 0 859 507 A2	08/19/98	Europe			x	
	AF	EP 0 533 593 A2	03/24/93	Europe			x	
	AG	EP 0 370 271 A2	05/30/90	Europe			x	
	AH	EP 0 538 901 A2	04/28/93	Europe			x	
	AI	WO 01/91453	11/29/01	Int'l Application			x	

### Other Documents (Title, Author, Date, Pages, Etc., if known)

	AJ	European Search Report dated February 26, 2003

Examiner's Signature

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to Applicant(s).